

What Is Claimed Is:

1. The present invention relates to a method for recording video/audio data in which the data are generated by a capturing device having a data memory, wherein the data memory of the capturing device is connected to at least one recording device that has a greater storage capacity than the data memory of the capturing device; and data are exchanged between the data memory of the capturing device and the at least one recording device, so that a virtual data memory is formed for the capturing device, using the recording device.
2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the data memory of the capturing device is a local data memory.
3. The method as recited in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the at least one recording device forms a central data memory.
4. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the capturing device is interconnected with a digital network.
5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one recording device is interconnected with a digital network.
6. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the reading out of data from the data memory at the capturing device for transmission to the at least one recording device is logically coupled to the input of new data into the data memory.

7. The method as recited in Claim 6,
wherein the input data are more current in time than the data that are read out.
8. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the data are copied from the data memory for transmission.
9. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the transmitted data are received by the recording device, which stores the received data.
10. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein during the input of data into the data memory,
older data are read out from it for transmission.
11. The method as recited in Claim 10,
wherein data are input into the data memory at the same rate as that at which data are read out of the data memory.
12. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims,
wherein the data are continuously read out from the data memory.
13. The method as recited in one of Claims 1 through 11,
wherein data are read out from the data memory at time intervals.
14. The method as recited in Claim 13,
wherein data are read out from the data memory at a higher rate than that at which new data are input into the data memory.
15. The method as recited in Claim 13 or 14,
wherein data are read out from the data memory when a certain threshold is reached.

16. The method as recited in Claim 15,
wherein the threshold is determined by the storage capacity of the data memory.
17. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein data are stored in the data memory in order to make available a buffer function for the data transmission to the at least one recording device.
18. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein data are deleted from the data memory after successful transmission.
19. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein a recording device which receives transmitted data checks these data for intactness.
20. The method as recited in Claim 19, wherein the recording device communicates the intactness to the capturing device.
21. The method as recited in Claim 20, wherein, upon notification of the intactness, the corresponding data are deleted from the data memory in the capturing device.
22. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one recording device has different storage areas which correspond to different recording time durations.
23. The method as recited in Claim 22, wherein the storage areas are reserved.
24. The method as recited in Claim 22 or 23, wherein the different storage areas are allocated to

- different capturing devices or to different capturing units of a capturing device.
25. The method as recited in one of Claims 22 through 24, wherein the different storage areas are allocated to different recording lengths in time.
 26. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the data memory of the capturing device has a capacity corresponding to a certain time duration of the data accrual.
 27. The method as recited in Claim 26, wherein data are transmitted to the recording device when a time limit is exceeded.
 28. A capturing device for video/audio data which includes an interface (25) for communications with at least one central recording device (18), via which data are able to be transmitted to the at least one recording device (18), wherein a data memory (26) and a control device (32) for the data memory (26) are provided, the input of new data into the data memory (26) being logically interconnectible with the reading out of older data for transmission to the recording device (18), in order to form a virtual data memory using the recording device (18).
 29. The capturing device as recited in Claim 28, wherein data from the data memory (26) are able to be copied for transmission via the control device.
 30. The recording device as recited in Claim 28 or 29, wherein data are able to be continuously read out from the data memory (26) for transmission using, the control device (32).

31. The recording device as recited in Claim 28 or 29, wherein data are able to be read out at time intervals from the data memory (26) for transmission, using the control device (32).
32. The capturing device as recited in one of Claims 28 through 31, wherein, because of the control device (32), messages concerning data intactness are able to be received by the recording device (18), which receives transmitted data for recording.
33. The capturing device as recited in Claim 32, wherein because of the control device (32), data that were successfully transmitted to the recording device (18) are able to be deleted from the data memory (26).
34. The capturing device as recited in one of Claims 28 through 33, wherein at least one camera (20) and/or at least one microphone are provided.
35. The capturing device as recited in one of Claims 28 through 34, wherein the interface (25) is an interface for a digital network (16), so that data are able to be transmitted on the digital network (16) to a central recording device (18) that is interconnected with the digital network (16).
36. A recording system for video/audio data, comprising at least one capturing device as recited in one of Claims 28 through 35 and at least one recording device by which data sent by the at least one capturing device are able to be stored.